

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
September 1, 2010
Council Meeting Minutes @ 7:30 pm
@ Townsend Elementary School Cafeteria
126 Main Street

7:30 pm – Council Meeting

I. Call to Order: 7:30 pm

II. Opening Ceremonies

- a. Roll Call: Mayor John Hanlin, Councilwomen Sandy Sturgis and Karen Jennings, Councilmen John Ness and Steve High, Attorney Fred Townsend, Engineer/Interim Town Manager Tom Wilkes, Finance Officer Azure Wright, Secretary Cathy Beaver
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said.
- c. Recognition of Visitors: 22 visitors.

III. Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda:

- a. Hanlin asked to add the fire company construction fees under new business.
- b. Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded with unanimous vote to accept the agenda with the above addition.

IV. Council Minutes – August council minutes on back table (approval)

- a. Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded with unanimous vote to accept the minutes as written.

V. Margaret Guy, Sweet Revenge Ladies, Inc

- a. Mrs. Guy, the director/president of Sweet Revenge Ladies, Inc introduced herself.
- b. Sweet Revenge Ladies, Inc. is a ladies organization that was started in 1978 in Wilmington, DE with 10 members. The name Sweet Revenge came about when there was so much sickness and poverty in our communities. The name means getting “Sweet Revenge” against the diseases and poverty hurting and killing our people. It is made up of ladies from all walks of life who do fundraisers to help other organizations such as the American Cancer Society, and American Heart Association. They also assist single parent families with their children’s needs, find placement for anyone who needs it, mentor teenage girls and feed the homeless.
- c. Our Motto is we don’t hate or discriminate. We appreciate and love all!
- d. Sweet Revenge has recently leased a property at 4522 N. Dupont Highway. They take donations of any kind, clothes, furniture, non-perishable foods at this sight.
- e. After the apartment fire in Dover several months ago, the club helped find housing for several of the families and supplied clothing and food to others.
- f. They do a lot of outreach programs and are partnered with the Goodwill Baptist Church on Route 13 (S).
- g. Mrs. Guy said they are trying to organize a senior citizen fundraiser pageant right now. They are working with the MOT Senior Center.
- h. They are working on starting an adult daycare at the N. Dupont Highway location. If you take care of an elderly parent, you will be able to drop them off for several hours or the day to run errands.
- i. Just recently donated bookbags and pencils to the school children. Mrs. Guy thanked Dawn McDowell and Walmart for helping her with this project.
- j. Ness asked Mrs. Guy to forward him any information on the club and he will help spread the word amongst his contacts.
- k. Jennings stated she would put something on the Town facebook.
- l. There will also be something added to the Town newsletter in October.
- m. If you would like to get involved or make a donation, call Mrs. Guy at: office – 302-464-1017 or cell – 302-981-9594. Email address is sweetreveladiesinc@yahoo.com.

VI. Unfinished Business: None

VII. New Business

- a. Office Computer Upgrade – Councilwoman Sandy Sturgis
 - i. Sturgis wishes to start the upgrade to the office computer system, if is in the budget for this year and staff is having problems with their computers.
 - ii. Council agreed it needs to be done.
 - iii. Hanlin asked Cathy to have Steve get some estimates for us.

- b. Fire Company Construction Fees – Mayor John Hanlin
 - i. Hanlin said the fire company is still short money to start re-building the fire hall, would like Council to consider waiving all the construction fees from the Town.
 - ii. Sturgis motioned, Jennings seconded with unanimous vote to waive all Town permit fees for the fire company.

VIII. Reports of the Officers

- a. State Police: Lt. LaMarche
 - i. Ness stated Lt. LaMarche is not able to attend and apologizes. Asked to remind residents that school is back in session, please obey traffic signs in Town.
 - ii. If you see any suspicious activity, please call the police.
- b. State Representative: Quinn Johnson:
 - i. Not in session right now, start back in January.
 - ii. Working with Mayor Hanlin on the railroad issue and DelDot on the road issues. The railroad says there are other crossings in the state in worse shape than ours.
 - iii. Money is already appropriated in the budget to re-pave all of Main Street which will include the railroad. This will be done in conjunction with the streetscape.
 - iv. For the TVII residents here, officially my office is not involved in any of the issues that are still going on, but I am involved in the meetings to try to get your issues resolved.
 - v. A resident from TVII stated they have been waiting 4 years for the roads to be paved, have been told there is money in an account and nothing has been done. How many meetings do you have to have with the developer, all other developments in the state the roads are paved within 1 year. We are all tired of the song and dance.
 - vi. Hanlin stated the roads in TVII are still private, they haven't been turned over to the Town. Mailed a letter to the developer 2 weeks ago giving him 5 days to take action. He called Tom a week late and was told he had to call me. I'm very angry and am suggesting to Council to still go after the bond money. In the meantime, I hope he hires a contractor to fixing the problems.
 - vii. Quinn added that statewide streets aren't handed over until the building is done. Because of the economy there isn't any building going on, many developments in the state are in the same shape. He said he understands how the residents feel and that is why he is involved in this.
 - viii. The resident thanked Council for letting him vent again. He said they all feel the same way, they are in a new state and don't know the laws. When they bought their homes they only knew of Ryland and Anderson, had never heard of Handler or MS Development. We were told the construction trucks would be coming down Main Street and into the development that way once our section was done. Some of us are ready to file a lawsuit. We are angry and tired of being lied too.
- c. Townsend Fire Department:
 - i. 9/11/10 is our cash giveaway fundraiser at the park. There will also be helicopter rides, vendors, food, lots of family fun. Starts at 9:00 am.
 - ii. Have another BBQ coming up at Willey's.
 - iii. Hope to start construction in the next 2 weeks.

IX. Reports

- a. Fred Townsend III, Attorney:
 - i. Reviewed the letter from the state asking Towns and Cities to review the methods of our elections. Townsend has nothing to worry about, our elections are held per our charter.
- b. Tom Wilkes, Engineer:
- c. Tom Wilkes, Interim Town Manager:
 - i. Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded to purchase 10 trashcans from Summit Supply for \$4,247.40 (\$425.00 each with 3% discount).
 - ii. In the following discussion Ness asked if we needed 10. Sturgis replied yes, we will use 5 now and have 5 once more is done at the park.
 - iii. These are the same trash cans as we have at the park now.
 - iv. Hanlin added the price comes out of the park budget.
 - v. Vote – unanimous.
 - vi. Only one bid was turned in for the ADA ramp on the gazebo.

- vii.** Repairs were made to the skate park under warranty today.
- viii.** Need some spot grading at the park, and one area at the back has washed out. Met with a contractor today who will submit a bid.
- ix.** The missing railing section of the gazebo was installed by Liberty Parks.
- x.** Am working on a master list of remaining park items and associated costs.
- xi.** The 4-way stop signs are in and will be put up ASAP at the 4-way stop to the park from Edgar Road.
- xii.** John McBride of Anderson Homes would like permission to move the construction/sales trailer for Anderson Homes from Wiggins Mill Road back to the open space on Rt. 71 (where it used to be). High asked if we could strong arm them to fix the roads if we permit this, we can't, they are only a builder. Ness asked what the pro's and con's would be for the residents. A TVII resident stated it was always an eyesore. After much discussion between Council and the residents present, it was decided to leave the trailer where it is at on Wiggins Mill Road.
- xiii.** Tom recommended the Town get maintenance agreements with the companies we purchased the Kubota, Bobcat and Grasshopper from. We don't have the room, tools or know-how to do this. Council agreed.
- xiv.** Ness asked if Council should start an agreement to get TVI streets fixed, they are getting bad. Tom said he has put a bug in the developer's ear and is getting positive feedback.
- xv.** Ness motioned, Sturgis seconded with a unanimous vote to have the Mayor contact the TVI developer (like he did with TVII) about road maintenance.

X. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Chair – John Hanlin, II:**
 - i.** Hanlin read the finance report as follows: total assets - \$4,063,905.24 and total liabilities & equity - \$4,032,832.02.
 - ii.** Sturgis clarified that this money isn't really all ours, it includes impact fees, road funds, grant money, etc.
- b. Streets Committee: Chair - John Hanlin, II:**
 - i.** The Caesar Rodney development signs have been installed.
- c. Storm Water Management Committee: Co-Chairs – Sandy Sturgis and Steve High: Nothing**
- d. Zoning Committee: Chair - Sandy Sturgis: Nothing**
- e. Health & Public Welfare Committee: Co-Chairs – Sandy Sturgis and Steve High:**
 - i.** Sturgis stated with the impending water this weekend from Hurricane Eric, the Town does have an EOP plan and most of us have training. In case of emergency exit, use the state emergency routes and we will use reverse 911 to call all residents. We need phone numbers for all resident's in Town, please call the Town hall to ensure we have this information.
 - ii.** Will update everyone at the workshop on the charter changes the committee has come up with.
- f. Energy & Environment Committee – Chair – Karen Jennings:**
 - i.** Townsend Wildlife Habitat Project
 - I.** Need several new yards yearly to stay certified. Call the Town Hall or myself.
 - II.** Jennings said she is looking into starting a sidewalk astronomy nights on full moon nights.
- g. Veteran Affairs Committee – Co-Chairs – Karen Jennings and Steve High:**
 - i.** Nothing to report, in pre-planning stages for the 2011 appreciation day.
 - ii.** Project 19734 Soldier Support: Nothing
- h. Police Committee: Chair – John Ness:**
 - i.** Have scheduled extra patrols for the fair and parade. The state police will also have a fingerprinting booth at the fair.
 - ii.** Townsend Community Watch -
 - I.** Will have a table at the fair.
 - II.** Need a volunteer to dress up as McGruff the police dog for the parade and fair.
- i. Parks & Recreation Committee - Co-Chairs – Sandy Sturgis and Steve High:**
 - i.** Town Fair – September 18, 2010

- ii. Town Fair Meeting 9/2/10 @ 6:30 pm – Town Hall
 - iii. Parade starts at 10:00 am, fair immediately following until 4:00 pm
 - iv. Will be talking to Andy Hall, President of the Fire company to see if they want to have combined Halloween party for the kids at the park.
 - v. Have been offered 300 bales of straw for the maze.
 - vi. Jammin Jeff suggested this and will play for the party.
- XI. Announcements:** None
- XII. Citizens Comments & Participation:** None
- XIII. Adjournment:** 8:51, Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded with a unanimous vote to adjourn for 10 minutes and go into executive session.
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THE AGENDA ITEMS AS LISTED MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN SEQUENCE. THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OR THE DELETION OF ITEMS, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE SESSIONS WITH THE TIME TO BE DETERMINED